

NORTHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

MAY, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northampton Rural District Council.

MRS. STARMER AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1937 upon the health of the Rural District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	50,010
Population (Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	15,600
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	4,260
Rateable Value and sum represented by a penny rate :—					
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1937	...	...	...	...	£91,057
Estimated product of 1d. Rate, 1937/38	...	...	...	...	£346/10/0

The district is chiefly an agricultural one, having a large number of farms, many of which are milk producing. There are few factories or industries other than agriculture in the district.

Many of the inhabitants of the villages round Northampton go by bus or cycle in to the shoe factories in the Town. There is not a large amount of unemployment.

Live BIRTHS total—male 112, female 78. Illegitimate—6 male, 6 female.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—12·17.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population for England and Wales—14·9.

Still Births—3 male, 2 female. Illegitimate—1 male.

The DEATHS total 91 male, 79 female.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—10·89.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population for England and Wales—12·4.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—4 male, 4 female. Illegitimate—2 male, 2 female.

One died from prematurity; one, a twin birth, died from inanition, and one infant from Broncho-pneumonia.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10 male, 7 females
„ „ Measles „	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

The following figures are taken from the monthly returns of deaths, excluding Berry Wood :—2 people died between 5 and up to 10 years, 3 up to 20 years, 6 up to 30 years, 3 up to 40 years, 7 up to 50 years, 17 up to 60 years, 23 up to 70 years, 40 up to 80 years, 22 up to 90 years, and 1 each of 92, 93, 94 and 96 years.

Deaths from suicide :—3 males. One age 29 years by gas and 2 aged 65 and 76 years by hanging. 2 youths of 20 years were killed as the result of motor cycle accidents, another aged 21 was run over by a railway train. A man aged 71 died from gas poisoning and one aged 83 was accidentally drowned.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health	...	H. F. PERCIVAL, O.B.E., B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor	...	R. J. MILLER, A.I.A.S., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Technical Assistant	...	F. H. OBREY
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	...	D. H. BARNES, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

The horse ambulance has now been placed in a well-earned retirement. In its place the Council have now an understanding with Daventry Urban Council whereby they agree to collect all infectious cases and deliver them at either Staverton or Hardingstone Fever Hospitals.

As soon as the final arrangements have been made, Hardingstone Fever Hospital will be closed, and Staverton Hospital will take all infectious cases.

- (a) Laboratory facilities for all diseases except Tuberculosis :—Northampton General Hospital. For Tuberculosis :—Dr. Lord, Health Clinic, Guildhall Road.
- (b) Ambulance facilities :—St. John Ambulance, 16, King Street Northampton. Telephone Northampton 612. Collect all cases where an ambulance is needed except infectious cases.
- (c) Nursing in the Home. For cases in urgent need of a nurse in the home arrangements for a nurse can be made with the County Medical Officer of Health through the District Medical Officer of Health.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinic. Nearest Ante-Natal Clinic :—Health Clinic, Guildhall Road, Northampton. 2nd Wednesday in month 10 a.m.

Nearest Child Welfare Centres :—

Chapel School, Brackley Road, Towcester—2nd and 4th Wednesdays in each month.
Ashton, Hartwell, Milton, Roade.

Baptist Schoolroom, Earls Barton—2nd and 4th Fridays in each month.
Brafield, Castle Ashby, Cogenhoe, Denton, Great Billing, Yardley Hastings.

Squirrel Inn, Duston—1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.
Bugbrooke, Collingtree, Courteenhall, Duston, Great Houghton, Hardingstone, Harpole, Kislingbury, Little Houghton, Lower Heyford, New Duston, Piddington, Rothersthorpe, Wootton.

Tuberculosis. Nearest Tuberculosis Dispensary—Health Clinic, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.—Northampton General Hospital.

Males : Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Fridays at 8 p.m.

Females : Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

- (e) The Northampton General Hospital. This Hospital will also take in cases of Diphtheria believed to be in urgent need of tracheotomy.
The Manfield Hospital. For orthopædic cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER. Roade supply obtained from the joint supply of Ashton and Hartwell was piped to the village and opened for use during the summer. This supply has been carried through without any opposition and was received at the opening ceremony with every sign of approval. It should prove a great benefit to Roade as every summer recently there has been serious shortage of water.

Harpole supply has been kept under careful observation during the year. Monthly tests as required by the Ministry of Health have been regularly made and these have proved the water to be of good quality.

2. Drainage and Sewerage. The chief work was the Valley sewer draining the areas of Weston Favell and Billing extending up into the Brixworth area, Moulton district. An Inquiry was held on 27th July by order of the Ministry of Health. There was no opposition to the scheme from anybody. The terminus of this sewer is being carried into the Northampton Borough Sewage Farm at Billing.

Duston. Beechwood and Ashwood Roads Area. Dr. Roger, Assistant County Medical Officer of Health was met with the village representatives on March 18th. Dr. Roger was in entire agreement that this area required properly sewerage by the County Council and roads made up.

Difficulty has been experienced with the constituents of the effluent from a factory at Roade and a great effort is being made to overcome the difficulties of separating out various deleterious substances and passing on a harmless effluent to the sewage beds.

HOUSING. One Inquiry was held on 16th June. This was one comprising several villages : Ashton, Cogenhoe, Denton, Great Houghton, Kislingbury, Milton, Wootton, Little Houghton.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1937.

MAY, 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. STARMER AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my ANNUAL REPORT on the General Sanitary Conditions and Work of my Department for the year 1937.

STAFF.

An addition to the staff was made in the temporary appointment of Mr. N. H. Billings as Clerk of Works for the new Housing Schemes commenced upon during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Roads. Work on the new scheme was commenced in January and finally completed in October. The Official Opening being held on 30th October. The scheme has proved to be very satisfactory and the inhabitants have expressed their appreciation of it. The estimated total cost is £6,073.

Hardingstone. The new 50,000 gallon elevated sectional steel reservoir and new borehole pumping plant were completed and put into use during the year.

A supply mains extension was carried out to supply existing houses and proposed new houses at The Warren, and it is intended in the future to carry this main to the Newport Road and eastwards along that road to supply development there where the present system is from a doubtful private well.

Billing. A supply scheme from the Northampton Corporation to this Parish has now been completed and covers the whole of the developed part of the village as well as potential building land on the Wellingborough Road and south of the village. The mains were also taken half way to Little Billing and a connection has been made so that the private supply to this part could be augmented from the town supply if necessary.

Hackleton. The Minister has provisionally approved of the proposed scheme and a contract was let for sinking the well at Piddington.

Wootton. The proposed scheme for this village is still held up pending the finding of an alternative source of supply other than the Hardingstone borehole.

I think that at least one step further might be reached if sanction could be obtained from the Minister of Health for tenders to be invited for the mains in the village to be laid and the existing Hardingstone source used temporarily, by so doing, even if the consumption had to be partially curtailed in order to conserve the supply, it would be better than the existing arrangements at Wootton.

Harpole. An extension of approximately one mile of mains was made in this Parish. The supply mains now cover the whole of the developed area of the Parish, providing means of supply to many outlying dwellings.

Brafield. The proposed auxiliary supply from a spring has not yet materialised owing to failure of agreement with owners.

Great Houghton. Preliminary estimates of cost for a scheme were prepared for this Parish, but the Parish Council feel the rate burden would be too heavy. A Public Supply here is very necessary.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major alterations or additions have been made in sewerage systems or sewage disposal works.

The reorganisation of the Roads disposal works is still held up pending the solution of finding the best way of dealing with the particular type of sewage received at the Works.

The provision of proper sewerage and sewage disposal systems in many of the Parishes is an urgent necessity and the provision of piped water supplies is accentuating the need.

The cost, however, would be generally such that in addition to existing rate commitments the burden would be too heavy for the Parishes to bear without some substantial assistance from the Government.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No alterations have taken place in the existing scheme of refuse collection.

The adoption by the Council in principle of the suggested general district scheme should see an improvement in this service, and on completion of the purchase of the proposed tip at Gayton, the scheme is to be started.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Two cases, infestation, were reported during the year, both Council Houses. Disinfestation was carried out by liquid insecticide and gaseous fumigation after the usual preliminary of easing woodwork, etc. Each case was successfully dealt with, no recurring infestation being reported.

No infestation of private houses has been reported.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

During the year, the whole of the Register has been checked up and redundant entries removed, and at the end of the year shows Producers 146, Retailers only 9, Total 155.

All these registered premises were inspected in detail during the year.

The conditions of the farms obtaining throughout the District varies considerably, and many premises fall far short of present-day requirements; it is hoped that these will be revisited and the necessary notices served during next year (1938).

The sampling of milk has been carried on regularly throughout the year, and a total of 151 samples were taken for cleanliness. Of these, 102 were good, 6 moderate and 43 were reported bad. Included in this total are 41 samples taken at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health, from producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in the District. Of these 2 were bad. Three samples were taken for suspected T.B. milk supplies—all proved negative.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of slaughter houses in the District is 22, the same as last year.

Visits at time of slaughtering and at regular intervals have been made and 56 such visits were made. One hundred and eighty-two carcasses were examined.

Note—A very gratifying increase of attention is now possible in connection with cowsheds and slaughter houses due entirely to the addition of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Of the 16 cases of Infectious Diseases which occurred during the year, the removal of the 7 cases going to Hospital was supervised and disinfection in 18 cases was carried out.

Following requests for private disinfections after non-infectious illnesses, the Council decided that where carried out a charge of 5/- per room should be made. Two such cases were done during the year.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

During the year, the Mid-Northants Town Planning Committee was constituted comprising most of the Local Authorities, apart from the County Borough of Northampton, in the County together with the County Council. The area of the Northampton Rural District being included.

Joint meetings were held on occasions during the year, and the statutory resolution to "Plan" the Districts involved was passed and the scheme got under way. The total area has for convenience been divided into four sub-divisions for which separate Planning Scheme for each will be formulated.

Your District is in No. 2 Scheme.

The statutory resolution was duly approved by the Minister of Health on 15th December, 1937, and all plans submitted to you have now to be examined from the aspect of good planning and consent or refusal given under the Town and Country Planning (General Interim) Development Order, 1933.

When the finally approved Scheme No. 2 is completed, the Articles of the Joint Committee provides that it shall be handed to the District Council for administration.

PLANS.

Sixty-three Plans for new and alterations to buildings were submitted to the Council.

They included plans for new houses as follows :—

Weston Favell ...	...	40	Billing ...	...	3
Duston ...	...	8	Rothersthorpe ...	...	3
Harpole ...	...	8	Milton ...	...	2
Roade ...	...	8	Hackleton ...	...	2
Wootton ...	...	5	Bugbrooke ...	...	2
Cogenhoe ...	...	4	Hartwell ...	...	1

Three Layouts for Estates were also submitted, one of which—that for the Land Settlement Association, Ltd. —was disapproved by the Housing and Town Planning Committee of the Borough Council.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	227
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	277
2 (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	...	...	...	183
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	216
3 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	Nil
4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	183

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—				
(a) By Owners ...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—				
(a) By Owners ...	...	...	...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	51
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders					3
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV, Overcrowding.					
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	85
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	85
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	?
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.					

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	49
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	62
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	18
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	56
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	151
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	53
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	312
Council House Repairs	...	...	...	...	989
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1383
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	134
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	313
Contracts—Housing, Water, Sewage, etc.			...	...	225
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	277
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919			...	...	6
Canal Boat Regulations	...	...	...	...	5
					<hr/> 4,047 <hr/>

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Council Offices,
1, Spencer Parade,
Northampton.

R. J. MILLER,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1937 :—

Disease				Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	19	3	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Parathyroid)	...	...	2	2	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	12	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	4	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargia	...	...	1	—	—	—
Meningitis Meningococcal	...	...	1	1	—	—

There has been little infectious disease throughout the year. Scarlet Fever has been the most numerous again, scattered throughout the District. Some of the cases have been exceedingly mild and have only been diagnosed when peeling.

Both Enteric Fever cases occurred at Berry Wood, they were severe cases and both died. One case was apparently contracted at the patients' home and developed after her return.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were four cases notified as such ; all were mild cases treated at home and clearing up in a few days.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	3	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
65 & upwards—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1
Totals	...	7	8	1	4	3	—	1

Yours faithfully,

H. F. PERCIVAL.

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